



No.	AUTHOR: Gary Langell, Private Lands Program Manager	Date
928	TITLE: Results of the 2005-06 Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program	

## OVERVIEW

The Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program was initiated in 1980 as a component of the Save Our Small Game (S.O.S.) program. It was designed to provide a cost-share incentive to landowners and other landholding organizations for the development and maintenance of wildlife habitat. Participants in the program are reimbursed for up to 90% of the estimated or actual cost of the wildlife habitat improvement projects. Payments to applicants are limited to a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$1,000 per fiscal year. A total of \$50,000 was available through the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program during the 2005-06 fiscal year.

## RESULTS

For the 2005-06 fiscal year, 148 practices involving the development/maintenance of 1,195.35 acres of wildlife habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$100,361.58 requesting \$59,849.67 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 82 projects (55 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 588.5 acres of wildlife habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$77,887.24 with the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program providing \$36,079.77 in cost-share reimbursement.

In the North Region (Districts 1 thru 8), a total of 65 practices involving the development and/or maintenance of 435.70 acres of wildlife habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$66,794.21, requesting \$31,173.48 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 43 projects (66 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 320.00 acres of wildlife habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$62,062.61 with the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program providing \$23,450.96 in cost-share reimbursement.

In the South Region (Districts 9 thru 15), a total of 83 practices involving the development and/or maintenance of 759.65 acres of wildlife habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$33,567.37, requesting \$28,676.19 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 39 projects (47 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 388.90 acres of wildlife habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$15,824.63 with the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program providing \$12,628.81 in cost-share reimbursement.

A breakdown of habitat development and maintenance projects is shown in Table 1. A breakdown of contracts and funding by Management Regions is shown in Table 2.

**Table 1. Status of Practices Enrolled in the Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program in 2005-06**

Practice	Practices Approved				Practices Completed			
	North Region		South Region		North Region		South Region	
	N <sup>1</sup>	Acres	N	Acres	N	Acres	N	Acres
Strip Mowing	1	4.0	3	40.0	0	0	1	8.0
Strip Disking	0	0	9	73.0	0	0	4	20.0
Strip Spraying	2	20.0	3	76.6	0	0	1	35.0
Legume Inter-seeding	0	0	3	46.0	0	0	1	7.0
Fence Row Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burning	0	10.0	2	12.7	0	0	2	12.7
Fire Break Creation	1	2.0	2	5.2	0	0	2	5.2
Fire Break Seeding	3	6.5	1	1.0	1	2.0	1	1.0
Fescue Eradication	0	0	11	98.7	0	0	4	45.4
Warm Season Grass Estab.	18	132.2	10	18.0	8	77.2	6	28.0
Cool Season Grass Estab.	1	0.5	3	18.0	1	0.5	2	14.0
Natural Revegetation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain Food Plots	2	9.0	10	32.55	2	9.0	4	16.25
Legume Food Plots	1	2.0	5	15.3	1	2.0	1	5.0
Tree and Shrub Planting	7	14.6	1	0.75	4	10.6	1	0.75
Permanent Forest Opening	1	2.0	0	0	1	2.0	0	0
Regeneration Opening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland Edge Enhance.	0	0	5	5.75	0	0	2	3.0
Wetland Development	8	41.2	1	2.0	7	40.7	0	0
Water Hole Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Habitat Protection	4	43.0	0	0	3	31.5	0	0
CP33	7	63.7	10	266.8	6	60.0	6	182.60
CCRP	7	45.0	0	0	7	45.0	0	0
CRP	1	9.5	0	0	1	9.5	0	0
MCM	1	30.0	4	47.3	1	30.0	1	5.0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>435.70</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>759.65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>388.90</b>
Fencing (Linear Feet)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brush Piles (N)	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Nesting Structures (N)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Number of individual practices – not number of individual contracts

**Table 2. Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Practices (2005-06) by Management Region**

Management Region	Practices Approved			Practices Completed		
	Number	Estimated Cost	Estimated Payment	Number	Actual Cost	Actual Payment
North Region	65	66,794.21	31,173.48	43	62,062.61	23,450.96
South Region	83	33,567.37	28,676.19	39	15,824.63	12,628.81
Statewide	148	\$100,361.58	\$59,849.67	82	\$77,887.24	\$36,079.77

## DISCUSSION

Periodic disturbance of grassland habitats is necessary to maintain stand diversity and stand structure in a condition, which provides suitable nesting and brood rearing habitat for bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey and grassland songbirds. Cost-share assistance was provided through the 2005-06 Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program for prescribed burning (12.7 acres), strip disking (20.0 acres), strip mowing (8.0 acres), woodland edge enhancement (3.0 acres), fescue eradication (45.4 acres), and the establishment of warm season grasses (105.2 acres).

Due to end of fiscal year deadlines, a total of 27 projects (169.9 acres) that were completed during the 2005-06 growing season were not included in the above summary. These projects were either completed after the fiscal year deadline of July 1 or due to a delay in payment processes their payment was paid out of 2006-07 Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program funds. The breakdown of these past-deadline projects included 11 projects (53 acres) in the North Region (totaling \$3,724.48 in actual costs and \$2,663.20 in actual payments) and 16 projects (116.9 acres) in the South Region (totaling \$7,998.47 in actual costs and \$7,812.47 in actual payments). The total cost share payments of the past-deadline projects (\$10,475.67) brings the total cost share payments for the 2004-05 growing season to \$46,555.44, with the actual cost of projects being \$89,610.19.